

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/812,988

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

Applicant(s)

KATSUMATA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview on 11/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-19 and 21-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Nick Bromer (Reg. No. 33,478) on 11/10/05.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claim 14, line 1, "anyone of Claims 11 to 13" have been changed -- Claim 11 --;
- b. Claim 15, line 1, "anyone of Claims 11 to 14" have been changed -- Claim 11 --;
- c. Claims 19-20 have been canceled.
- d. New claims 21-29 have been added as follow:

21. (new) The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 11, wherein the length of a longer memory card is a length of a normal-size memory card.

22. (new): A method for using a shorter compact memory card (4) in a device adapted for a longer memory card, comprising:

providing a memory card adapter (1); and

forming an assembly by connecting the compact memory card to the memory card adapter in such a way that the compact memory card and the memory card adapter lie in substantially a single plane, and wherein the assembly has a thickness, a width and a length of the longer memory card;

wherein said memory card adapter comprises:

a core (3) comprised of a resin molded body; and
a frame metal fitting (2) assembled to said core; said frame metal fitting (2) including a pair of holding portions (21, 22) each having a substantially U-shaped configuration, in cross section across the insertion direction, and provided on opposite ends of said frame metal fitting at a memory-card attaching side thereof, to attach the compact memory card thereto; and

a hook portion (23) provided between said pair of holding portions at said memory-card attaching side;

said holding portion being adapted to hold the opposite sides of an end of the compact memory card when the compact memory card is assembled with the memory card adapter;

said hook portion being adapted to detachably engage the end of the compact memory card by means of a first spring force so as to prevent said compact memory card from coming off the memory card adapter;

said frame metal fitting (2) further including caulking projections (24) which secure said frame metal fitting to said core by means of caulking onto said core;

whereby the assembly is usable in a device adapted to the longer memory card.

23 (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 12, wherein end surfaces of said pair of holding portions are cut diagonally (27) to the insertion direction at an insertion side of said compact memory card.

24. (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 13, wherein end surfaces of said pair of holding portions are cut diagonally (27) to the insertion direction at an insertion side of said compact memory card.

25. (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of said pair of holding portions (21, 22) comprises a notch portion (29), wherein said notch portion is serviceable as a center of a relative rotation between the compact memory card and said frame metal fitting when the adapter engages the compact memory card.

26. (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 23, wherein at least one of said pair of holding portions (21, 22) comprises a notch portion (29), wherein said notch portion is serviceable as a center of a relative rotation between the compact memory card and said frame metal fitting when the adapter engages the compact memory card.

27. (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 24, wherein at least one of said pair of holding portions (21, 22) comprises a notch portion (29), wherein said notch portion is serviceable as a center of a relative rotation between the compact memory card and said frame metal fitting when the adapter engages the compact memory card.

28. (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 12, wherein at least one of said pair of holding portions (21, 22) comprises a notch portion (29), wherein said notch portion is serviceable as a center of a relative rotation between the

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compact memory card and said frame metal fitting when the adapter engages the compact memory card.

29. (new): The adapter for a memory card according to Claim 13, wherein at least one of said pair of holding portions (21, 22) comprises a notch portion (29), wherein said notch portion is serviceable as a center of a relative rotation between the compact memory card and said frame metal fitting when the adapter engages the compact memory card.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 11-19 and 21-29 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the memory card adapter comprising a core comprised of a resin body and the frame metal fitting including caulking projections which secure the frame metal fitting to the core by means of caulking onto the core, as set forth in the claimed combination.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

TL.
11/14/05